

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

AGR-20 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 031742Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7148

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC
COMMISSION

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 4832 B) STATE 133304

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COMMISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT IT
IS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO HOLD THE PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL
CONSULTATIONS IN JULY. IT PREFERS TO PUT THEM OFF UNTIL
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AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, AND FEELS THAT WOULD IN ANY

CASE BE A BETTER TIME TO HOLD THE CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FIELDING, THE EC COMMISSION'S DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN RELATIONS, ON JULY 3 ASKED A MISSION OFFICER TO CALL ON HIM TO RECEIVE THE COMMISSION'S REPLY TO THE US PROPOSALS FOR AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS. FIELDING EXPLAINED THAT LARDINOIS AND SOAMES HAD DISCUSSED THESE PROPOSALS THE NIGHT BEFORE, AND THAT HE WAS ACTING ON SOAMES' INSTRUCTIONS.

3. THE COMMISSION RESPONSE IS THAT IT IS "EXTREMELY RELUCTANT" TO HOLD THESE CONSULTATIONS IN THE LATTER PART OF JULY. FIELDING MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN AMPLIFICATION OF THIS RESPONSE:

(A) THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE AGREEMENT BY THE COMMISSION TO THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE US IN THE JUNE 6-7 US-EC CONSULTATIONS FOR "WIDE RANGING" CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURE;

(B) HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ENGAGE IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN THE LATTER PART OF JULY. THIS PERIOD WILL, AS IT IS EVERY YEAR, BE ONE OF HECTIC ACTIVITY WITHIN THE COMMISSION, AND THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY TRUE FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE OF THE COMMISSION.

(C) IT DOES NOT APPEAR, IN ANY CASE, THAT THE MATTERS PROPOSED BY THE US FOR DISCUSSION--WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MEAT--ARE OF AN URGENCY WHICH DICTATES CONSULTATION IN JULY; AND MEAT WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE US AND THE COMMISSION, AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL, NEXT WEEK (REF B).

(D) THERE WOULD BE POSITIVE ADVANTAGES TO HOLDING THE CONSULTATIONS AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE OF GRAINS, FOR BETTER INFORMATION ON CROPS WOULD THEN BE AVAILABLE. IT MIGHT THEN ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO MERGE DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WITH THESE CONSULTATIONS.

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4. WE RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD CONVEY THE COMMISSION'S ANSWER TO WASHINGTON. WE ADDED THAT WE REGRETTED THE COMMISSION'S INABILITY TO AGREE TO CONSULTATIONS IN JULY. FIELDING RESPONDED THAT HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS SET IN MOTION BY THE JUNE 6-7 CONSULTATIONS. WHAT THE COMMISSION WAS QUESTIONING, IN ITS RESPONSE, WAS THE PRACTICALITY OF HOLDING THE AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME. GREENWALD

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